

Claims

- [c1] 1. A quartering pill splitter comprising :
a bed having a recess formed within, the recess having a cross section which substantially conforms to the pill shape; and
a thin, cruciate cutting blade assembly, affixed in proximity to the bed.
- [c2] 2. The pill splitter of claim 1, further comprising:
an upper compression member moveable with respect to the cutting blade assembly; and
means to forceably engage the upper compression member against a pill disposed in the bed recess.
- [c3] 3. The pill splitter of claim 2, whereby the cruciate cutting blade assembly further comprises a first blade having a thickness and a second blade at a substantially right angle relative to the first blade, and offset from the first blade by a distance approximately equal to the thickness of the first blade.
- [c4] 4. The pill splitter of claim 3, further comprising:
a lower body further comprising the cutting blade assembly;

an upper body, integrally affixed to the lower body, and containing one or more linear plunger guide slots; and a plunger, further comprising plunger guides which slidably engage said plunger guide slots, wherein the compression member is integrally formed at a lower end of the plunger.

- [c5] 5. The pill splitter of claim 4, wherein the bed is substantially cylindrical.
- [c6] 6. The pill splitter of claim 10, wherein each bed further guide tabs for aligning the recess in the bed with the cutting blade, wherein the guide tabs matingly engage the guide tabs with said linear plunger guide slots of the upper body.
- [c7] 7. The pill splitter of claim 6, wherein the cutting blade assembly is disposed directly below the bed.
- [c8] 8. A method for splitting a pill in quarters comprising the steps of :
forming a bed having a recess formed within in a pill splitter, the recess having a cross section which substantially conforms to the pill shape; and
disposing a thin, cruciate cutting blade assembly, in proximity to the bed.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

forming an upper compression member moveable with respect to the cutting blade assembly in the pill splitter; and
forceably engaging the upper compression member against a pill disposed in the bed recess.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 9, whereby the cruciate cutting blade assembly further comprises a first blade having a thickness and a second blade at a substantially right angle relative to the first blade, and offset from the first blade by a distance approximately equal to the thickness of the first blade.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the pill splitter further comprises:
a lower body further comprising the cutting blade assembly;
an upper body, integrally affixed to the lower body, and containing one or more linear plunger guides slots; and
a plunger, further comprising plunger guides which slidably engage said plunger guide slots, wherein the compression member is integrally formed at a lower end of the plunger.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the bed is substantially cylindrical.

- [c13] 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising forming guide tabs for aligning the recess in the bed with the cutting blade, wherein the guide tabs matingly engage the guide tabs with said linear plunger guide slots of the upper body.
- [c14] 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising disposing the cutting blade assembly directly below the bed.